

Inspector's Statement

N165MB

On August 24, 2019 I arrived at Elsanor Alabama Airport (1AL4) to a glider accident on the east end of the airport runway. N165MB was found located about 50' inside the tree line just beyond a large set of large power lines. The aircraft right wing was broke off and major damage to the tail and cockpit area. The Pilot and passenger were removed by EMS and flown to the hospital by helicopter. The pilot reported to have a head concussion and broken hip, the passenger had just a head concussion.

The airport glider club instructor and UPS 757 pilot, Mr. Tom Johnson () was interviewed by phone and was at the airport at the time of the accident. No eyewitnesses to the event. He stated that he had previously flown with the pilot of the and there may have been an pilot induced issue with the speed brakes that he spoke to him about and may have been a contributing factor to the accident.

The pilot was released from the hospital with rehab and I interviewed him about the accident. Mr. Rettig stated that he did not remember the accident but could recall previous training flights in the aircraft with no issues. His stated that his son was in the back seat and could not remember anything about the accident either.

Ralph Hicks () from the NTSB IIC stated he was going to try to get the data recorder LX 7000 for any available flight information from the salvage yard.

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